HISTORY 360
The British Empire in Film

Dr. Wiener
Office: Humanities 334

Spring 2013
MW 3:00-4:15
(or later)

Office hours: MW 10-11, 1-3
and by appointment
E-mail: wiener@rice

The British Empire at its peak and in its dissolution will be explored through a wide range of films from Britain, America and India. These films – most of which enjoyed large commercial audiences, suggesting their wide appeal - offer a storehouse of images, styles and sentiments reflecting in many ways on "the imperial enterprise" and its ending, and help us understand what it meant to the British. In addition, there will be readings. Some previous work in either history or film is recommended.

This course should make you more proficient in analyzing visual as well as written "texts", in writing, in public speaking and in knowledge of the history of the British Empire.

Course work will include one one-hour take-home exam, one two-hour take-home final exam, and the preparation and presentation to the class of a paper, of about 3000 words, on some film or films of your choosing not covered in the course that throw light on the history of the British Empire, its ideologies and its images. A one-page "prospectus" of your proposed paper describing your subject and what it will contribute to the course will be due by Monday, March 25. You will give a fifteen-minute oral presentation of your paper at the last class of the semester; the paper itself will not be due until the last day of exam period (when the final exam will of course also be due).

Mondays will be devoted to viewing a film; class will run past 4:15, depending on the length of the film; students must be able to stay as late as 5:30 pm. Wednesdays will be devoted to discussion of the film and related readings. If you miss the viewing, you should watch the film in Fondren Library (on reserve); some can be streamed from Netflix or other sources. Attendance at Wednesday discussions is required.

In grading exams and papers I look for factual knowledge, clarity of expression, originality and judgment (correct spelling and grammar go without saying). If you have any questions about how a paper or exam was evaluated, please talk to me about it.

Approximate grading weights:

First exam	10%
Final exam	25%
Paper presentation	10%
Paper	40%
Class participation	15%

I will send any "emergency" information (a problem with or a change in the reading or film assignment, a class cancellation, if any, etc.) by email; feel free to send me email messages (either questions or to let me know if you will miss class).

Honor System: Students are reminded of the existence of the Rice Honor System, the basic provisions of which can be found at http://honor.rice.edu/index.cfm. For the purposes of this course, it is essential that students:

(a) give credit where credit is due in all papers by citing sources for all quotations, paraphrased arguments, or summaries of basic evidence.

(b) refrain from copying a fellow student's responses to quizzes and exams administered in class.

Students with questions should see me prior to the submission of any work which might violate the Honor System.

Any student with a documented disability needing academic adjustments or accommodations is requested to speak with me during the first two weeks of class. All discussions will remain confidential. Students with disabilities should also contact Disabled Student Services in the Ley Student Center.

READING:

Buy at Amazon or other online sites (all in paperback); one copy on Reserve:

P. Levine, *The British Empire: Sunrise to Sunset* (used copies available)
W. Webster, *Englishness & Empire 1939-1965* (a few used available)
P. Chowdhury, *Colonial India and the making of empire cinema*

Additional readings will be handed out (marked by * below). I expect the reading to be done by the class for which it is listed.

Note: a useful web site for visual materials, secondary and primary sources on the British Empire is http://www.britishempire.co.uk/empire.htm

MEETINGS

Wed. Jan. 9:	Introduction; The Establishment of the British Empire
Mon. Jan. 14	View ***The Drum*** (1938; UK; 96 min) Levine, *The British Empire*, ch. 5 *Selection from T. Metcalf, *Ideologies of the Raj* Chowdry, *India and Empire Cinema*, chs. 1-2
Wed. Jan. 16	Discuss *The Drum* and readings
Mon. Jan. 21	NO CLASS – MLK DAY
Wed. Jan. 23	Discuss India as the Keystone of the Empire Levine, chs. 5-8 *Selection from Wiener, *An Empire on Trial*
Mon. Jan. 28	View ***Gunga Din*** (1939; UK; 117 min) Chowdry, ch. 3
Wed. Jan. 30	Discuss ***Gunga Din*** and reading
Mon. Feb. 4	View ***The Rains Came*** (1940; USA; 103 min) Levine, ch. 9 Chowdry, chs. 4-5
Wed. Feb. 6	Discuss ***The Rains Came*** and readings
Mon. Feb. 11	View ***A Passage to India*** (1984; 163 min.) Levine, ch. 10 Webster, *Englishness & Empire 1939-1965*
Wed. Feb. 13	Discuss ***A Passage to India*** and readings
Mon. Feb. 18	View ***Jinnah*** (1998; UK; 95 min.) Khwajaj, "The Islamisation of Pakistan" google "jinnah film"[interesting material on Jinnah is at http://www.yespakistan.com/jinnah/ & readers'comments give a sense of current attitudes]
Wed. Feb. 20	Discuss ***Jinnah*** & readings & online findings take-home one-hour closed-book exam distributed
Fri. Feb 22, noon:	Exam due [by e-mail attachment (I will acknowledge receipt)]
Feb. 23-Mar. 3	SPRING BREAK

Mon. Mar. 4	Lecture: Missionaries and Empire *Selection from J. Cox, *The British Missionary Experience* [exams returned]
Wed. Mar. 6	Mini-Lecture: The British in Africa: Why? How? View ***Stanley and Livingstone*** (1939; USA; 101 min.) Levine, ch. 6 "David Livingstone", *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*
Mon. March 11	10-2: Individual conferences on plans for papers View ***Rhodes of Africa [***1936; 91 min] "Cecil Rhodes", *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*
Wed. March 13	Discuss the 2 films and readings
Mon. March 18	View ***Zulu*** (1963; UK; 138 min) *"Defending *Zulu*" *"Fact or Fiction"
Wed. March 20	Discuss ***Zulu*** and readings
Mon. March 25	View ***Sanders of the River*** (1935; 98 min.) *Selections from the diaries of S.D. Nash, District Commissioner, Gold Coast *Matera, "Black Intellectuals in the Imperial Metropolis and the Debate over race and empire in *Sanders of the River*" **Paper prospectus due**
Wed. March 27	Discuss ***Sanders*** and readings
Mon. April 1	View ***The Kitchen Toto*** **(1987; 96 min.)** *Carruthers, "Two Faces of 1950s Terrorism" *"Kenya"
Wed. April 3	Discuss ***The Kitchen Toto*** and readings
Mon. April 8	View "**Eureka Stockade**" (1949; UK; 103 min.) Levine, ch. 4 Marilyn Lake, 'Mission Impossible: How Men Gave Birth to the Australian Nation", *Gender & History* , 4 (1992), 305-322. *Chris Healy, "Battle Memories: Echoes of Eureka" A. Fyson, "Eyewitness at Eureka", *History Today* 54 :12 (2004), 28 – 35.

Wed. April 10	Discuss “Eureka Stockade” and readings
Mon. April 15	View “**Carry On Up the Khyber**” (1968; 88 min)
Wed. April 17	Papers presented Take-home final exam distributed
Wed. May 1	Take-home final exam due; Papers due